IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor(s) Hans HAINDL et al.

10/574,427 Serial No. Filed April 3, 2006 For Port System

Examiner Bradley Osinski

Art Unit 3767

Confirmation No. 7575 I hereby certify that this correspondence is being electronically transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office via the Office electronic

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Erica M. Brauer

January 15, 2009 Date: Mail Stop AF Signature: /Erica M. Brauer/ Commissioner for Patents

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<u>AMENDMENT TRANSMITTAL</u>

Transmitted herewith for filing in the above-identified application is an Amendment in response to the Final Office Action mailed October 24, 2008.

No fee is believed to be required. However, if any fee is required, please use Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 15, 2009 By: /Daniel S. Matthews/

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REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

SIR:

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This paper is filed in response to the Final Office Action of October 24, 2008 in connection with the above-captioned application.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 5 of this paper.